

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 262917

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ORIGIN EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM - EDNEWSOM

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM - MR. SHINN

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R 230150Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN 5781

S E C R E T STATE 262917

FOLLOWING USNATO 5678 SENT ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF INFO  
CINCLANT USCINCEUR MBFR VIENNA USLOSCLANT USNMP SHAPE  
OCT 20; REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T USNATO 5678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NPG, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG: NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA

REF: (A) STATE 258804 (DTG 192134Z OCT 76); (B) USNATO 5407  
(DTG 061308Z OCT 76); (C) USNATO 5553 (DTG 141125Z OCT 76);  
(D) STATE 257156 (DTG 161541Z OCT 76)

SUMMARY: PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF GUIDANCE IN REF A, FRG AND  
OTHER NPG ALLIES DECIDED TO ACCEPT ORIGINAL US PREFERENCE FOR  
TITLE OF ITEM I OF NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA. IS IS PREPARED TO  
ISSUE OVERALL AGENDA, WITH THIS TITLE, AS SOON AS US CLEARANCE  
IS RECEIVED. WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA  
ON THIS BASIS, AND REQUEST GUIDANCE, IF POSSIBLE, PRIOR TO  
OCTOBER 22 NPG PERMREPS MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IN REF A, FRG  
NPG STAFF GROUP REP (MERK1) INFORMED MISSION OFFICER ON  
OCTOBER 19 THAT FRG WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT US-PREFERRED  
FORMULATION (BRIEFING ON THE BALANCE OF NUCLEAR FORCES)

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 262917

FOR THE TITLE OF ITEM I OF THE NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA

(REF B). HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ASSUMED THAT THE FRG FORMULATION FOR ITEM I, WHICH IS REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT AGENDA CIRCULATED BY SUG LUNS (REF C), HAD CAUSED THE CONTINUING DELAY IN WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE UNCERTAIN WHY THIS SHOULD BE SO, HAVING ACCEPTED THE REASONING FOR DROPPING PHRASEOLOGY LIKE "EURO-STRATEGIC BALANCE," THEY DID NOT WANT TO BE THE CAUSE OF FURTHER DELAY IN APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, WHICH ONLY COMPLICATED PLANNING FOR ALL NPG COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE NOVEMBER MINISTERIAL.

2. AT SUBSEQUENT NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING ON OCTOBER 19, FRG REP STATED WILLINGNESS OF HIS AUTHORITIES TO ACCEPT US-PREFERRED FORMULATION. IN A TOUR DE TABLE, OTHER REPS INDICATED THEY COULD ACCEPT THIS FORMULATION ON BEHALF OF THEIR AUTHORITIES. ITALIAN REP (CIARRAPICO) WAS INITIALLY HESITANT, BUT ACCEPTED THE FORMULATION AFTER BEING REASSURED BY US REP (WOODWORTH) THAT THE US BRIEFING WOULD COVER FULL SPECTRUM OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS (REF D). US REP POINTED OUT THAT, APART FROM TITLE OF ITEM I, HE STILL REQUIRED GUIDANCE APPROVING OVERALL AGENDA.

3. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THE RESULT OF EXCHANGES IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE PROVIDES BEST RESOLUTION TO ISSUE OF TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM I. WE BELIEVE FRG AND OTHER ALLIES UNDERSTAND OUR VIEW THAT NUCLEAR BALANCE IS A CONTINUUM, AND IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THEY WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR THREAT TO EUROPE AT THE NPG MINISTERIAL. IS IS PREPARED TO ISSUE THE AGENDA, WITH TITLE FOR ITEM I READING "BRIEFING ON THE BALANCE OF NUCLEAR FORCES (INCLUDING CURRENT DEVELOPMENT IN CRUISE MISSILES)," AS SOON AS US CLEARANCE IS RECEIVED. NPG PERMREPS MEET ON OCTOBER 22 AND WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF OVERALL AGENDA BY THAT TIME. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. ST  
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PAGE 03 STATE 262917

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 76 STATE 258804  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 AUG 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <16 MAR 2004 by morefirh, REFER TO DOD>; RELEASED <12 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NPG: NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MNUC, NPG, NATO  
**To:** BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006